(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a demand for setting up telephone exchanges at Bandarbela, Panehlar and other place of Balsad District in Gujarat. There is no village named Panchlai in this district. It seems to be a misprint for Panehlar.

At Sanjan a telephone exchange is already working.

(b) it is planned to set up telephone exchanges at Bandarbela and Kakawad during 1996-97. The applicants of Panehlar will be provided connections from the telephone exchange proposed at Krishnapur during 1997.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Misuse of Local Telephone

2087. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision exists to check misuse of local telephones as in done in case of STD locking facility by Dynamic locking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce secret code locking system for local telephones in Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the time by which the secret code locking system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Subscribers enjoying dynamic locking facility can check misuse of local calls as well as STD/ISD calls by debarring all types of outgoing calls.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.[English]

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

2088. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to open post offices in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details there alongwith target fixed therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Scheme subject to fulfilment of Departmental norms and availability of resources. The policy of the Department is to open post offices in rural areas preferably in Gram Panchayat villages where basic postal facilities do not exist apart from developing colonies and industrial areas. $ Extra Departmental Post Offices have, however been opened during the year against a target of 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu during the current Annual Plan.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections :

2089. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending for grant of telephone connections, as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per statement enclosed.

(b) it is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. The same growth rate is proposed to be maintained in future also.

STATEMENT

Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.

Sl.No.	State	Waiting List for Telephone connections
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	J & K	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T.)	5903330